

JENNE BAXTER, JOURNALIST

By ROBERT BARR

The Explosions of the Treasury.

WHEN Jennie returned to Vienna and was once more installed in her luxurious rooms at the Palace Steinhilber, she received in due time a copy of the Daily Bugle, forwarded to her under cover as a registered letter. The girl could not resist the temptation to open it, and she found to her surprise that the editor had failed to make the most of the news she had sent him. As she opened out the paper she saw the great black headlines that extend across two columns, and the news of the explosion of the Treasury was the first that met her eye. The headlines were startling enough:

PHANTOM GOLD.

The Most Gigantic Robbery of Modern Times.

The Austrian War Chest Dynamited. Twenty Million Pounds in Gold Looted.

Appalling Disaster at the Treasury in Vienna.

Four Men Killed and Sixteen Others More or Less Seriously Injured.

"Dear me," the Princess cried, in looking over her shoulder at these amazing headlines, "how like a London journal! It reminds me of a certain paper's account of the Chicago match, when Chicago was winning, of course, when Anson had lined out the ball from the plate to the lake front and brought three runs in the home run. 'Good gracious!' cried Jennie. 'What language are you speaking? Is it slang or some foreign tongue?'"

"No, I told him I believed that you could solve the mystery if any one could, and remembering what you had done in the case of the diamonds, my husband has the greatest faith in your powers as an investigator, but he fears the authorities here will be reluctant to allow a woman to have any part in the case. I spoke to him this morning and asked him if he could get you enrolled as a special detective, and he said there might be some difficulty in obtaining such an appointment for a woman. Would you have any objection to dressing up as a nice young man, Jennie?"

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call upon him, but seemed dead about when I told him that you were my wife's friend and a guest at our house, so he suggested that you would in all probability wish first to see the scene of the explosion, and proposed that he should call here with his carriage and accompany you to the Treasury. He wished to know if 4 o'clock in the afternoon would suit you conveniently.

"Oh, yes," replied Jennie. "I am anxious to begin at once, and, of course, I shall be obliged to him if he will act as my guide in the vaults of the Treasury. I shall be able to see how much they have already discovered."

"You must not expect information from the police-in fact, I doubt if they have discovered anything, since it is their duty to keep it to themselves, and I imagine they will hold a pretty close watch on you and be more anxious to learn what you find out, and thus take the credit, than they can, than to furnish you with any knowledge of the affair they may have discovered."

"That is quite natural, but what one has a right to expect. I don't wish to rob the police of any credit they are to be gained from this investigation, and the chief willing to turn over to them whatever clues may happen to chance upon."

"Well, if you can convince the director of that, you will have all the assistance he can give you. It would be a bad tactic to let him know that you are acting merely in an amateur way, and that you have no desire to rob them of their glory when it comes to the solving of the problem."

Promptly at 4 o'clock the director of police put in appearance at the Palace Steinhilber, and he placed before him a man in a dark suit, who was, of course, the Princess. He was a middle-aged man, with a high forehead, and a serious expression. He was dressed in a dark suit, and he had a high forehead, and a serious expression.

"And this is the only entrance?" "The only entrance, madame." "Where the men on guard in this doorway were injured by the explosion?" "The explosion occurred in the doorway, and the men on guard were injured by the explosion."

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saw more and more evidence of the confusion. The thick iron-bound door lay where it had fallen, and it had not been stirred since it was found to get the two men from under it. Its ponderous hinges were twisted as if they had been made of glue, and its massive bolts were snapped across like brittle sticks. The door was closed on the floor was a thick coating of dust and debris, finely powdered, growing deeper and deeper until the entrance to the room was reached. The walls of the corridor either in the corridor or chamber, and the way was lit by candles held by soldiers who accompanied them. The floor was covered with a thick layer of dust, sand, and plaster, all finely powdered, lay in the corners of the room and man's head. There seemed to be tons of this debris, and as Jennie looked up at the arched ceiling, resembling the roof of a vaulted dungeon, she saw that the stone floor had been covered to the top with the tremendous force of the blast.

"Where are the remnants of the treasure chest?" she asked. "The chest is here," he said, pointing to a small pile of debris. "There are no remnants; not a vestige of it is to be found."

"Of what was it made?" "It was made of iron," he said, pointing to a small pile of debris. "There are no remnants; not a vestige of it is to be found."

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carriage and you and I will roam around together. You will let me come, won't you? I am going to the Graubenzstrasse to see Herr Felz."

"Oh, I know Herr Felz, and a dear old man he is. No silly old fellow for me. If you want any favor from Herr Felz, you had better take me with you."

"I shall be delighted. Ah, here comes the carriage. We will walk there in a very few minutes."

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explosives, and I know of nothing that would produce such results as we have here. Perhaps Prof. Carl Seifried could give you some information on that point. The science of detonation has been studied above his fellow in that department."

"Can you give me his address?" "The chemist wrote the address on a sheet of paper and handed it to the young woman."

"Do you happen to know whether Prof. Seifried or his assistants have been called in during this investigation?" "What investigation, madame?"

"The investigation of the recent terrible explosion."

"I have heard of no explosion," replied the chemist, evidently bewildered. Then Jennie remembered that while the particulars of the disaster in the Treasury were known to the rest of the world, no knowledge of the catastrophe had got abroad in Vienna.

"The professor," continued the chemist, "noticed Jennie's hesitation. This was a very practical matter, and he was deeply interested in the subject. He was a man of pure science, but he had done little toward applying his knowledge to any practical end, useful purpose."

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BATTLES IN THE NIGHT

Artificial Daylight for War of the Future.

FACTS THAT STIRRED THE CZAR

von Bloch's Powerful Book Gave Such a Picture of Carnage that Russia's Autocrat was Profoundly Affected—Evolution of Death-Dealing Engines—Expense of Firing Shots from Big Guns—Impossibility of Caring for the Wounded.

Great battles of the future will not be fought at night. Powerful electric lights will search out and reveal the nocturnal movements of the contending forces, the sky will be brightly lit by innumerable rockets, and all through the night will be heard the ceaseless roar and rattle of cannon and shrapnel and machine guns, and the awful crashing of bursting shells.

M. von Bloch has some very interesting essays on the subject of the difficulty of the future of the war. He reckons the forces of the work and dual alliances as follows:

	Men.
Germany	2,500,000
Austria	1,500,000
Russia	1,000,000
Total for triple alliance	5,000,000
France	2,500,000
Italy	1,000,000
Total for dual alliance	3,500,000

In the event of these two enormous masses of men opposing one another, a number of battalions will be connected with the moving, housing, and commissariat, with which no human intelligence could satisfactorily deal. The mobilization of these vast forces would alone tax the most powerful mind. It is M. von Bloch's opinion that the author of this work deals with war as a French expert—that these two combinations of powers to declare war, 10,000 men would be in hospital a fortnight after the outbreak of hostilities. Men broken down by the stress of marching, by hunger or thirst, or stricken by the fearful epidemics which are the inevitable concomitants of war.

Cost of Cannon Shots. In a similar matter-of-fact, convincing way, the author of this work deals with war as a French expert—that these two combinations of powers to declare war, 10,000 men would be in hospital a fortnight after the outbreak of hostilities. Men broken down by the stress of marching, by hunger or thirst, or stricken by the fearful epidemics which are the inevitable concomitants of war.

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Dr. Bröcher, is quoted by M. von Bloch as saying that the proportion of fatal to non-fatal wounds in the use of the machine gun was largely increased. In the recent war in Chili it was noticed that in cases where the old weapon was used the number of fatal wounds was 19 per cent. When the Mauser small bore was used the proportion was 40 per cent.

And what about the care of the wounded? Is adequate provision being made in modern armies for the enormous numbers of the sick? M. von Bloch is clearly of opinion that nothing in any way adequate has been attempted. The science of surgery remains pretty much where it was twenty years ago, and the enormous increase in the number of the wounded has set the increased deadliness of the new weapons. Rifles have increased in efficiency fourfold, cannon fortyfold. Our author quotes high authority for his statement that if the medical service and ambulance and medical corps are to render really efficient service on the battlefield their numerical strength must be vastly increased. In the war of the future it will be far more difficult to reach the wounded; it will be not impossible to establish "first help" stations. The modern proposal is that the line of ambulances must be remote from the line of fire, and with the quickness of fire which will be the rule in the future the field hospitals will be crowded to suffocation.

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